



**House Appropriations Committee
FY 2023 Budget Adjustment Testimony
January 19, 2023**

My name is Chadd Viger. I am the Executive Director of Recovery House, a member of the substance use treatment provider community. Recovery House. has been serving Vermont residents for the past 50 years.

I am here today to talk about the FY 2023 Justice Reinvestment II appropriation. Before I begin, I want to let you know that I will also be reaching out to Rep. Emmons and the House Corrections and Institutions Committee to share our request.

During FY22, Recovery House, and more specifically the Serenity House program, took in at least 117 clients with a known connection to the Department of Corrections. We estimate the percentage of known and unknown justice/corrections involved individuals to be between 25-50% of our general population.

As we work to transition individuals out of incarceration and into treatment, or into treatment at the referral of their probation/parole officer, we are faced with logistics that require time and human resources within our agency – more than most of the general population. We are currently striving to reduce the time between first call for service and admission. With this, and the logistics we face, it is important to grow our admissions staff. With Medicaid reimbursement rates being as low as they are, Recovery House is requesting and appropriation of \$50,000.00, to cover the additional cost of admissions expansion for this fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chadd Viger, MS, LADC
CEO; Recovery House, Inc.